THE SULLIVAN COMMEMORATIVE OF 1929

SYNOPSIS

This exhibit is primarily a first day cover exhibit, with the first frame (20%) consisting of stamp production and historical information, and the remaining four frames (80%) showing first day covers of the Sullivan commemorative. Since there were fifteen New York communities (and no other) selected for first-day-of-issue, almost all the covers shown bear New York postal markings and had to go through the mail. There was no philatelic *First-Day-of Issue* cancel in 1929; the exhibit could easily be entitled "Postal Markings of Upstate New York on June 17, 1929."

Page 17 of the exhibit reproduces two different Post Office Dept. announcements for the Sullivan stamp, one of which is dated 1930, over six months after the stamp was issued. The 1929 POD announcement was found by the exhibitor in the AFDCS archives at the APRL in State College (now Bellefonte); he has never been able to locate one available for purchase. The 1930 POD announcement was obtained as part of a specialized collection of Sullivan FDCs but unfortunately was pasted on a heavy stock quadrilled album page when it was acquired by the original owner in 1930. Again, no other copy of this announcement has been located. Page 18 includes write-up about the two POD announcements and a 1980s road map of central New York highlighting the location of the 15 communities selected for first day sale of the Sullivan commemorative.

The covers on pages 19 through 57 were selected to show the variety of cachets appearing on Sullivan FDCs, with most of these pages showing cachets specific to the Sullivan stamp; the final few pages show general purpose cachets. In addition to showing cachets, this section of the exhibit also shows most of the 30-plus different official cancellations available on Sullivan FDCs (machine and hand cancels from 15 localities), although the section is not organized on this basis. In addition, it shows four of the many unofficial cancels found on Sullivan FDCs---Lowman, NY, Binghamton Terminal RPO, Syracuse and Buffalo.

The next section of the exhibit (pages 58 through 63) is headed "Corner Cards and Curiosities" and includes Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Alfred E. Smith autographed covers, error cancellations, special delivery usage and more.

Pages 64 through 70 complete the "roll call" of the official cancellations, showing machine and hand cancels not shown in the first part of the exhibit from the 15 first day sites. Other canceling devices used at the official offices, including registry ovals and the Binghamton number-in-circle handstamps, are shown in this section.

The final **ten** pages of the exhibit show a selection of the **unofficial** first day cancels found on Sullivan FDCs. New unofficials are still turning up, no one can be certain how many different unofficial first day cancellations there are. 19 are shown in this section, including a variety of colored cancels, two more RPOs, a naval ship cancel and a foreign destination.

The exhibit ends with one of the two <u>second day cancels</u> shown, this one being from Berwick, ME, where Gen. Sullivan practiced law before the Revolution. The other second day cancel in the exhibit (Washington, DC) appears on page 26.

References:

Mellone's Planty Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted First Day Covers, Vol.II, 1928-1929, pp 51-64
Scott 2010 Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps & Covers, pp 82, 338 , 473
U.S.S.S. 2008 Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog, p 75